

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system, comprising:
a fuel cell stack including a plurality of anodes; and
a single fuel supply apparatus that supplies a plurality of fuel droplets to each of the anodes.
2. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a controller adapted to monitor a rate of fuel consumption at the anodes and to control the fuel supply apparatus to supply droplets at a rate corresponding to the rate of fuel consumption.
3. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anodes face one another and define a fuel passage therebetween, and the fuel supply apparatus directs the fuel droplets into the fuel passage.
4. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system, comprising:
a fuel cell including at least one anode; and
a thermal drop ejector that supplies a plurality of fuel droplets to the at least one anode.
5. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system, comprising:
a fuel cell including at least one anode; and
a piezoelectric drop ejector that supplies a plurality of fuel droplets to the at least one anode.

6. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system, comprising:
 - a fuel cell including at least one anode; and
 - a flexensional drop ejector that supplies a plurality of fuel droplets to the at least one anode.
7. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the single fuel supply apparatus comprises an ultrasonic atomizer.
8. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system, comprising:
 - a fuel cell stack including at least one anode pair arranged such that the anodes within the anode pair face one another and define a fuel passage therebetween; and
 - fuel supply means for supplying a plurality of droplets to the fuel passage between the at least one anode pair.
9. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
 - storage means for storing energy generated with fuel that is on the anodes when the system is shut down.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Original) A fuel cell system, comprising:
 - a fuel cell stack including
 - a plurality of anodes pairs arranged such that the anodes within each anode pair face one another and define a fuel passage therebetween, and
 - a plurality of cathodes; and
 - a fuel reservoir;
 - a fuel supply apparatus that draws fuel from the fuel reservoir and supplies a plurality of fuel droplets to the fuel passages.

12. (Original) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fuel supply apparatus comprises at least one of a thermal drop ejector, a piezoelectric drop ejector, a flextensional drop ejector, and an ultrasonic atomizer.

13. (Original) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
a controller adapted to monitor a rate of fuel consumption at the anodes and to control the fuel supply apparatus to supply droplets at a rate corresponding to the rate of fuel consumption.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a fuel cell stack having an anode pair arranged such that the anodes within the anode pair face one another and define a fuel passage therebetween, the method comprising the steps of:

directing a spray of fuel droplets into the fuel passage between the anode pair and onto the anodes; and
consuming the fuel at the anodes.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the step of directing a spray of fuel droplets into the fuel passage between the anode pair and onto the anodes comprises creating the spray of fuel droplets with at least one of a thermal drop ejector, a piezoelectric drop ejector, a flextensional drop ejector, and an ultrasonic atomizer.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a fuel cell having an anode, the method comprising the steps of:

directing a spray of fuel droplets onto the anode by generating a spray of fuel droplets and blowing the droplets towards the anode with a fan; and
consuming the fuel at the anode.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the step of directing a spray of fuel droplets into the fuel passage between the anode pair and onto the anodes comprises directing a spray of fuel droplets into the fuel passage between the anode pair and onto the anodes at a rate corresponding to a rate at which the fuel is being consumed at the anodes.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A fuel supply system for use with a fuel cell including an anode, comprising:

a fuel reservoir that stores fuel;

fuel supply means, operably connected to the fuel reservoir, for supplying a plurality of droplets to the at least one anode; and

a controller adapted to monitor a rate of fuel consumption at the anode and to control the fuel supply means to supply droplets at a rate that results in a fuel layer being maintained on the anode.

21-81. (Canceled)

82. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system, comprising:

a fuel cell including at least one anode defining ~~an anode plane~~ a surface that receives fuel;

a fuel supply path extending in a direction that is non-perpendicular to the anode ~~plane~~ surface that receives fuel;

a fuel supply apparatus that directs a plurality of fuel droplets along the fuel supply path to the anode.

83. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 82, wherein the fuel supply path is substantially parallel to the anode ~~plane~~ surface that receives fuel.

84. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 82, further comprising:

a controller adapted to monitor a rate of fuel consumption at the at least one anode and to control the fuel supply apparatus to supply droplets at a rate corresponding to the rate of fuel consumption.

85. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 82, wherein the fuel cell comprises at least one anode pair, the anodes within the at least one anode pair face one another and define the fuel path therebetween, and the fuel supply apparatus directs the fuel droplets into the fuel path.

86. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 82, wherein the fuel supply apparatus comprises a thermal drop ejector.

87. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 82, wherein the fuel supply apparatus comprises a piezoelectric drop ejector.

88. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 82, wherein the fuel supply apparatus comprises a flextensional drop ejector.

89. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 82, wherein the fuel supply apparatus comprises an ultrasonic atomizer.

90. (New) A fuel cell system, comprising:
a fuel cell including two substantially parallel surfaces defining a fuel passage therebetween, at least one of the surfaces being an anode surface; and
a fuel supply apparatus that directs a plurality of fuel droplets straight into the fuel passage between the two substantially parallel surfaces.

91. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 90, wherein the fuel supply apparatus fires the plurality of fuel droplets in a direction that is substantially parallel to the anode surface.

92. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 90, wherein both of the substantially parallel surfaces are anode surfaces.

93. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 90, further comprising:
a controller adapted to monitor a rate of fuel consumption at the anode surface and to control the fuel supply apparatus to supply droplets at a rate corresponding to the rate of fuel consumption.

94. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 90, wherein the fuel supply apparatus comprises a thermal drop ejector.

95. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 90, wherein the fuel supply apparatus comprises a piezoelectric drop ejector.

96. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 90, wherein the fuel supply apparatus comprises a flextensional drop ejector.

97. (New) A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 90, wherein the fuel supply apparatus comprises an ultrasonic atomizer.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet, which includes Figures 1-3, replaces the sheet filed January 31, 2002 including Figures 1-3. In Figure 1, reference numeral "120" has been changed to "102."

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes